

—that when the State held stock, he had no objection that the commissioners should cast the vote of the State for bank directors.

Mr. BROWN also rose to explain.

Mr. DAVIS. Now, as to the conflict between the gentleman from Carroll, (Mr. Brown,) and the gentleman from Washington, (Mr. Harbine,) with the gentleman from Baltimore county, (Mr. Howard,)—

Mr. HOWARD called the gentleman to order. It certainly was not in order for a gentleman to attack a proposition that was not strictly before the Convention.

Mr. DAVIS. Well, I did not think to draw a hornet's nest around my head quite so soon. [Laughter.]

Mr. CHAMBERS in his seat. Fair play, gentlemen—a fair fight.

Mr. DAVIS. I was about to show, and I think I was not out of order—

The PRESIDENT. The gentleman's proposition was not before the Convention.

Mr. DAVIS said:

All that he was going to say, was, that if the gentleman from Washington and the gentleman from Carroll, gave the election of all the officers, bank directors included to the people, as they had argued—they were in conflict with the gentleman from Baltimore county, [Mr. Howard,] who proposed commissioners or a board, precisely similar in character and effect to the electoral college proposed by his friend from Anne Arundel, [Mr. Dorsey,] which had been voted down by a large majority.

He hoped gentlemen would be able to reconcile the consistency of their course in supporting this proposition, which they would give, with their vote against the proposition of his friend from Anne Arundel, some time ago, and their argument this morning, in favor of electing every thing, bank directors included, directly by the people.

In reference to one particular, before he proceeded further, he deemed it proper to put himself right. He had several times since he had been here, been spoken to as a *director* in the Chesapeake and Ohio canal company, when in fact, such was not the case. He was not a director in any company—but a State agent, authorised by the legislature, in conjunction with four other gentlemen, (two of whom are upon this floor,) to vote the stock of the State in all joint stock companies, canals, rail roads, &c., in which the State has an interest.

This appointment was conferred upon him some ten years ago, by the legislature, without any solicitation or effort on his part whatever. He accepted it not with a view to emoluments, for the compensation was very small, but that he might have an opportunity to lend his feeble efforts to advance the interests of the State, in which he felt a deep interest. And in saying this, he was sure he spoke the sentiments of his honorable colleagues. He would say, speaking of them alone, that he never saw gentlemen more patriotically and faithfully devote their time to the public interest, and for so small a compensation.

When the proposition to create a board of public works, came up on Saturday, he asked what seemed to him to be a pertinent question: "What powers it was proposed to invest in this board, and what authority they intended to give this board to execute the powers conferred?"

The gentlemen from Charles, (Mr. Jenifer,) who reported the bill, and not now in his seat, felt the force of this question and finding it difficult to answer it himself, had read from the message of one of the late Governor's, a recommendation of a board of public works, and for a reason for the creation of this board after a long recital of the interests the State had in the various works of internal improvement, had gravely stated that the present board of State agents were inadequately compensated, and consequently could not be expected fully to attend to the State's interest in those works. No neglect of duty, or loss to the State is assigned, but simply insufficiency of pay; and full attention to duty under such circumstances could not be expected.

Now, if this really be the only reason, and as yet, he had heard no other, the remedy is too simple and easy to need an argument, or to engage the time of this Convention. The legislature could easily provide additional compensation.—This would be but just to those to whom a verdict of attention to business and fidelity to trust, had been so generally accorded.

The gentleman from Frederick, (Mr. Thomas,) not now in his seat, and it was a matter of regret to him to be compelled to refer to a gentleman not present, but as the gentleman was present by his chosen proxy, [Mr. Brown,] he supposed he might attempt to do so. The gentleman undertook to answer the question he, [Mr. D.,] propounded. And how did he answer it? Why, by telling us, and telling us truly, that Maryland, in connection with her public works, was unlike New York, was unlike Ohio and was unlike Pennsylvania—that the board of commissioners had no authority to control the Susquehanna rail road company, no authority to control the Baltimore and Ohio rail road company, and only authority to vote the stock of the State in the Chesapeake and Ohio canal company at stockholders' meetings of that company. So that, if this new board was to control that company; if it was imperative that the board should exert its control, we must ascertain, before we elect any President or Directors, whether they would be the supple tools of this board, to carry out their bidding. We must know that the gentlemen we were going to elect would do every thing for us—would be willing to obey our behests—do our bidding, or we would not have the desired control. The gentleman from Frederick, [Mr. Thomas,] had shown nothing but a power to vote the stock of the State in the election of President and Directors in the Chesapeake and Ohio canal company, and a negative on the subject of tolls. Now, it appeared to him, [Mr. D.,] a very important office to make a great deal of noise about! This simply voting by proxy the stock of the State, and we were to excite the people of the whole State in order to elect a board for this very important duty. We were to elect one on